



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/735,891	12/14/2000	Brian D. Kling	BS00-197	5760
38823 7590 09/04/2007 THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, LLP/ AT&T BLS Intellectual Property, Inc. 100 GALLERIA PARKWAY SUITE 1750 ATLANTA, GA 30339			EXAMINER GOLD, AVI M	
			ART UNIT 2157	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/04/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/735,891

Applicant(s)

KLING, BRIAN D.

Examiner

Avi Gold

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the amendment filed on June 22, 2007. Claims 1-20 and 22-35 are pending.

Response to Amendment

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 14, 16-19, 23-25, 27, 29, 32, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, U.S. Patent No. 6,014,711 further in view of Troen-Krasnow et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,442,250.

Brown teaches the invention substantially as claimed including services for delivering multimedia messages over a data network (see abstract).

As to claim 1, Brown teaches a method for sending electronic mail from a client operating within a client-server architecture, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) provisioning the client with client non-email messaging software (col. 5, lines 15-20, Brown discloses a telephone subscriber creating a voice mail message);

(b) provisioning a server with server non-email messaging software,

Art Unit: 2157

wherein the server is in communication with the client (col. 5, lines 15-20, Brown discloses a voice mail system);

(c) transmitting from the client a message in a format of the non-email messaging software, where the message contains the electronic mail (col. 5, lines 20-23, Brown discloses a voice mail system converting the message into email format);

(d) receiving the message at the server (col. 5, lines 20-25, Brown discloses a SMTP host receiving the message);

(e) reformatting the message from a format of the non-email messaging software to a format compatible with an email server (col. 5, lines 20-25); and

(f) forwarding the reformatted message to the email server (col. 5, lines 20-29, Brown discloses messages sent from the SMTP host component to the SMTP host).

Brown fails to teach the limitation further including text messages, broadcast text messaging software, and wherein broadcasting includes transmitting a message from a single network component to all components on a network.

However, Troen-Krasnow teaches a system and method for transmitting messages to predefined groups (see abstract). Troen-Krasnow teaches the use of a message broadcast unit and text messages being broadcast (col. 3, lines 34-59; col. 4, line 50 – col. 5, line 9; col. 7, lines 10-38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Brown in view of Troen-Krasnow to use text messages, broadcast text messaging software, and wherein broadcasting includes transmitting a message from a single network component to all components on a network. One would be

motivated to do so because a broadcast provides a subscriber with the ability to effectively and immediately broadcast a single message to a group of individuals and text messaging is beneficial because it can easily reach wireless mediums.

Regarding claim 2, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claim 1, wherein broadcasting the text message comprises multicasting the text message to a group of network components in communication with the client, and wherein the server is in the group of network components in communication with the client (Brown, col. 5, lines 15-25).

Regarding claim 3, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claim 1, wherein broadcasting the text message containing the electronic mail comprises:

(i) identifying a triggering event that precipitates a need for the electronic mail (col. 5, lines 15-25, Brown discloses the voice mail being received);

(ii) determining an email body, an email subject, and an email address for the electronic mail, wherein the email body, the email subject, and the email address correspond to the triggering event (col. 15, lines 20-34, Brown discloses extraction of a unique identifier); and

(iii) instructing the client non-email broadcast text messaging software to broadcast the text message containing the electronic mail, wherein the electronic mail contains the email body, the email subject, and the email address (Brown, col. 5, lines 15-25).

Regarding claim 6, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claim 3, wherein determining the email body, the email subject, and the email address comprises consulting a database cross-referencing triggering events with email bodies, email subjects, and email addresses (col. 5, lines 20-34, Brown discloses a directory server).

Regarding claim 7, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claim 3, wherein determining the email body, the email subject, and the email address comprises a user manually entering the email body, the email subject, and the email address into a test program of the client non-email broadcast text messaging software (Brown, col. 5, lines 20-34).

Regarding claims 8 and 32, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claims 3 and 29, further comprising the step of forwarding the electronic mail from the email server through a network to the email address (col. 6, lines 24-38, Brown discloses email being sent by means of a SMTP host).

Regarding claim 9, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claim 1, wherein broadcasting the text message containing the electronic mail comprises:

(i) determining an email body, an email subject, and an email address using data processing software;

(ii) accessing an application program interface of the data processing software;

(iii) sending the email body, the email subject, and the email address to the application program interface; and

(iv) accessing the client non-email text broadcast messaging software with the application program interface and instructing the client non-email text broadcast messaging software to broadcast the text message, wherein the text message contains the email body, the email subject, and the email address (Brown, col. 5, lines 15-34, col. 6, lines 24-38).

Regarding claim 10, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claim 1, further comprising forwarding the electronic mail from the email server through a network to an email address (Brown, col. 6, lines 24-38).

Regarding claim 12, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method claim 1, wherein the message includes a subject in accordance with subject-based addressing of the client non-email text broadcast messaging software and the server broadcast text messaging server, and wherein the server is configured to recognize the subject and read the text message (Brown, col. 6, lines 24-38).

Regarding claims 14 and 24, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method and system of claims 1 and 16, wherein the client non-email broadcast text messaging

software is different from, but compatible with, the server non-email text broadcast messaging software (Brown, col. 5, line 15-34).

As to claim 16, Brown teaches a system for sending an electronic mail from a client in a client-server architecture, the system comprising:

(a) a plurality of clients, wherein each client of the plurality of clients contains client non-email messaging software, data processing software, and a client application program interface, and wherein each client is in communication with the plurality of clients;

(b) a non-email messaging server in communication with the plurality of clients, wherein the non-email messaging server contains server non-email messaging software and an email application program interface, wherein the email application program interface is adapted to receive a message containing the electronic mail and reformat the message from a format compatible with the server non-email messaging software to a format compatible with an email server; and

(c) an email server in communication with the messaging server (col. 5, lines 15-34, col. 6, lines 24-38).

Brown fails to teach the limitation further including text messages, broadcast text messaging software, and wherein broadcasting includes transmitting a message from a single network component to all components on a network.

Art Unit: 2157

However, Troen-Krasnow teaches the use of a message broadcast unit and text messages being broadcast (col. 3, lines 34-59; col. 4, line 50 – col. 5, line 9; col. 7, lines 10-38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Brown in view of Troen-Krasnow to use text messages, broadcast text messaging software, and wherein broadcasting includes transmitting a message from a single network component to all components on a network. One would be motivated to do so because a broadcast provides a subscriber with the ability to effectively and immediately broadcast a single message to a group of individuals and text messaging is beneficial because it can easily reach wireless mediums.

As to claim 17, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the system of claim 16, wherein the data processing software monitors for a triggering event requiring email and determines an email body, an email subject, and an email address for the electronic mail, wherein the email body, the email subject, and the email address correspond to the triggering event (Brown, col. 5, lines 15-34).

As to claim 18, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the system of claim 16, wherein the data processing software is a testing program of the client non-email text messaging software through which a user can enter an email body, an email subject, and an email address for the electronic mail (Brown, col. 5, lines 15-34).

As to claim 19, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the system of claim 16, wherein the client application program interface is adapted to instruct the client non-email broadcast text messaging software to send a message text containing the electronic mail to the text messaging server (Brown, col. 3, lines 3-24).

As to claim 23, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the system of claim 16, wherein the client non-email broadcast text messaging software enables broadcasts and multicasts from the plurality of clients (Brown, col. 5, lines 15-34).

As to claim 25, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the system of claim 16, wherein the client non-email broadcast text messaging software is the same as the server non-email broadcast text messaging software (Brown, col. 5, lines 15-34, col. 6, lines 24-38).

As to claim 27, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the system of claim 16, wherein the email server is adapted to receive the electronic mail and forward the electronic mail through a network (Brown, col. 5, lines 15-25).

As to claims 29 and 34, Brown teaches a method and system for sending an electronic mail comprising:

(a) transmitting from a client computer a message in a format, wherein the message contains the electronic email, wherein the client computer is part of a client-

server architecture, and wherein the client computer does not have electronic mail software;

(b) receiving the message at a server computer of the client-server architecture (col. 3, lines 31-65).

(c) reformatting the message from a format to an email format; and

(d) forwarding the reformatted message to an email server that is compatible with the email format (col. 5, lines 15-34, col. 6, lines 24-38).

Brown fails to teach the limitation further including text messages, broadcast text messaging software, and wherein broadcasting includes transmitting a message from a single network component to all components on a network.

However, Troen-Krasnow teaches the use of a message broadcast unit and text messages being broadcast (col. 3, lines 34-59; col. 4, line 50 – col. 5, line 9; col. 7, lines 10-38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Brown in view of Troen-Krasnow to use text messages, broadcast text messaging software, and wherein broadcasting includes transmitting a message from a single network component to all components on a network. One would be motivated to do so because a broadcast provides a subscriber with the ability to effectively and immediately broadcast a single message to a group of individuals and text messaging is beneficial because it can easily reach wireless mediums.

Art Unit: 2157

3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown and Troen-Krasnow further in view of Chuah et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,400,722.

Brown teaches the invention substantially as claimed including services for delivering multimedia messages over a data network (see abstract). Troen-Krasnow teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a system and method for transmitting messages to predefined groups (see abstract).

As to claim 4, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claim 3.

Brown and Troen-Krasnow fail to teach the limitation further including the client monitoring data traffic in a digital wireless packet switching network and the triggering event is an overload on network capacity that requires a change in traffic routing.

However, Chuah teaches the optimization of routing mobile end systems to desired communications servers (see abstract). Chuah teaches the use of wireless packet switching (col. 2, lines 43-62).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Brown and Troen-Krasnow in view of Chuah to use a digital wireless packet switching network and the triggering event as an overload on network capacity that requires a change in traffic routing. One would be motivated to do so because the broadcast could be used to alert users of the change in traffic routing.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown and Troen-Krasnow further in view of Kozdon et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,456,601.

As to claim 5, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claim 3.

Art Unit: 2157

Brown and Troen-Krasnow fail to teach the limitation further including the client monitoring hard disk space on other clients, and the triggering event is a shortage of hard disk space.

However, Kozdon teaches a method and system for providing call progress tones and audible announcements in a distributed, packetized network environment (see abstract). Kozdon teaches the use of need for more storage (col. 2; lines 5-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Brown and Troen-Krasnow in view of Kozdon to use a client monitoring hard disk space on other clients, and the triggering event as a shortage of hard disk space. One would be motivated to do so because the broadcast could be used to alert users of the shortage of hard disk space.

5. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown and Troen-Krasnow further in view of Rogers et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,301,484.

As to claim 11, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claims 1 and 10.

Brown and Troen-Krasnow fail to teach the limitation further including the email address is an email address of a wireless pager.

However, Rogers teaches a method and apparatus for remote control of software and hardware features in a wireless communication device using Short Message Services (see abstract). Rogers teaches the use of email on a wireless device (col. 3, lines 58-67; col. 4, lines 1-18).

Art Unit: 2157

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Brown and Troen-Krasnow in view of Rogers to use an email address of a wireless pager. One would be motivated to do so because the important messages could be broadcast to users away from their computers.

6. Claims 13, 20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown and Troen-Krasnow further in view of Bookspan et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,636,888.

As to claim 13, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claim 1.

Brown and Troen-Krasnow fail to teach the limitation further including the use of the making the format compatible with the email server is Messaging Application Program Interface (MAPI).

However, Bookspan teaches the scheduling of presentation broadcasts in an integrated network environment (see abstract). Bookspan shows evidence of the use of MAPI (col. 14, lines 25-36).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Brown and Troen-Krasnow in view of Bookspan to use MAPI. One would be motivated to do so because it provides a consistent interface that is well known in use for email servers.

As to claims 20 and 22, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claim 16.

Brown and Troen-Krasnow fail to teach the limitation further including the client and email application program interface are one of a dynamic link library, a control, and an object module.

However, Bookspan teaches the scheduling of presentation broadcasts in an integrated network environment (see abstract). Bookspan shows evidence of the use of dynamic link library, a control, and an object module (col. 20).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Brown and Troen-Krasnow in view of Bookspan to use a dynamic link library, a control, and an object module. One would be motivated to do so because they provide appropriate functionality to the API.

7. Claims 15, 26, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown and Troen-Krasnow further in view of Lewis, U.S. Patent No. 6,513,019.

As to claims 15, 26, and 30, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method and system of claims 1, 16, and 29.

Brown and Troen-Krasnow fail to teach the limitation further including the client non-email text broadcast messaging software and the server non-email broadcast text messaging software are TIB Rendezvous.

However, Lewis teaches a data processing system that provides substantial throughput for consolidation, integration, structuring, storage and distribution of financial

Art Unit: 2157

data (see abstract). Lewis shows evidence of the use of TIB Rendezvous (col. 9, lines 60-67; col. 10, lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Brown and Troen-Krasnow in view of Lewis to use TIB Rendezvous. One would be motivated to do so because it is a well-known software used in messaging.

8. Claims 28 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown and Troen-Krasnow further in view of Ooe, U.S. Patent No. 6,330,238.

As to claims 28 and 31, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method of claims 16 and 29.

Brown and Troen-Krasnow fail to teach the limitation further including the server non-email broadcast text messaging software and the email application program interface are a single Transaction Control Protocol / Internet Protocol program and the client computer uses Transaction Control Protocol / Internet Protocol software to broadcast the text message containing the electronic mail, and wherein the server computer uses Transaction Control Protocol / Internet Protocol software to receive the text message.

However, Ooe teaches a multicast transmission method of transmitting data to a plurality of nodes belonging to a specific group in a communication network based upon a protocol such as TCP/IP (see abstract). Ooe shows evidence of the use of TCP/IP for email and broadcast.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Brown and Troen-Krasnow in view of Ooe to use TCP/IP for email and broadcast. One would be motivated to do so because TCP/IP is a well-known protocol used for messaging.

9. Claims 33 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown and Troen-Krasnow in view of Lewis, U.S. Patent No. 6,513,019, further in view of Bookspan et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,636,888

As to claims 33 and 35, Brown and Troen-Krasnow teach the method and system of claims 29 and 34.

Brown and Troen-Krasnow fail to teach the limitation further including the non-email broadcast format is a TIB Rendezvous format and the email format is a Messaging Application Program Interface (MAPI) format.

However, Lewis teaches a data processing system that provides substantial throughput for consolidation, integration, structuring, storage and distribution of financial data (see abstract). Lewis shows evidence of the use of TIB Rendezvous (col. 9, lines 60-67; col. 10, lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Brown and Troen-Krasnow in view of Lewis to use TIB Rendezvous. One would be motivated to do so because it is a well-known software used in messaging

Brown and Lewis fail to teach the limitation further including the email format is a Messaging Application Program Interface (MAPI) format.

However, Bookspan teaches the scheduling of presentation broadcasts in an integrated network environment (see abstract). Bookspan shows evidence of the use of MAPI (col. 14, lines 25-36).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Brown in view of Bookspan to use MAPI. One would be motivated to do so because it provides a consistent interface that is well known in use for email servers.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed June 22, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the argument to claims 1, 16, 29, and 34, the applicant argues that the reference, Troen-Krasnow, does not disclose broadcasting a text message. The examiner respectfully disagrees, as seen in, col. 3, lines 34-59 and col. 7, lines 10-38, there is the use of a message broadcast unit which provides a subscriber with the ability to effectively and immediately broadcast a single message to a group of individuals.

11. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections

are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). The limitation including a text message that contains the electronic mail is a combination of both references.

12. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the knowledge is generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art.

13. In response to applicant's argument that Brown and Troen-Krasnow are nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, both pieces of art are related to the delivery of electronic messages.

Conclusion

14. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,003,070 to Frantz.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,356,356 to Miller et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,556,835 to Raivisto.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,421,706 to McNeill et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,085,101 to Jain et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,632,018 to Otorii

U.S. Pat. No. 6,470,385 to Nakashima et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,856,432 to Bobrow et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,665,667 to Inaba et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,335,928 to Herrmann et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,625,646 to Kamanaka et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Avi Gold whose telephone number is 571-272-4002.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:30 (1st Friday Off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

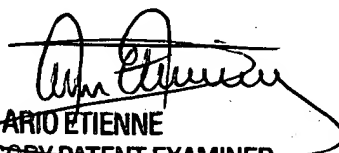
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Avi Gold

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2157

AMG


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
EBC CENTER 2100